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1. A thallium-free ceramic metal halide lamp of different wattage having superior dimming characteristics, said lamp comprising:

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a discharge vessel formed of a material resistant to sodium at high temperature;

a thallium-free fill including mercury and metal halides in said vessel including at least one member selected from the group consisting of MgI_2 or $MgBr_2$; and

10 discharge electrodes positioned at opposite ends within the discharge vessel; and

an envelope surrounding the discharge vessel, the outer jacket is filled with nitrogen.

15 2. The lamp according to claim 1 wherein said nitrogen is at a pressure between about 350 and 600 mmHg.

20 3. A lamp as claimed in claim 1 characterized in that the ionizable filling comprises Hg and Ar or Xe, halides of Na and at least one of the elements of Dy, Ho, Tm and wherein the MgI_2 or $MgBr_2$, or both are in a molar quantity between about 5 and 50% of the total molar quantity of the total halides.

25 4. A lamp as claimed in claim 1 wherein the halides are Na, Dy, Ho and Tm and wherein the total molar quantity of halides of Na, Dy, Ho and Tm is between about 50 and 95%, and wherein such halides are in the form of iodides or bromides.

30 5. A lamp as claimed in claim 2 in which the molar quantity of Dy halide is between about 0 to 20%.

6. A ceramic metal halide lamp of different wattage having superior dimming characteristics, said lamp comprising:
a discharge vessel formed of a material resistant to sodium at high temperature;

5 a fill in said vessel including at least one member selected from the group consisting of MgI₂ and/or MgBr₂, and an ionizable filling comprising Hg and Ar or Xe, halides of Na and at least one of the halides of Dy, Ho, Tm and wherein the MgI₂ is in a molar quantity between about 5 and 50% of the total molar quantity of the total halides; and

10 discharge electrodes positioned at opposite ends within the discharge vessel; and

15 an envelope surrounding the discharge vessel, the outer jacket is filled with nitrogen.

20 1. A thallium-free ceramic metal halide lamp of different wattage having superior dimming characteristics, said lamp comprising:

25 a discharge vessel formed of polycrystalline alumina temperature;

30 an ionizable filling consisting essentially of Hg and Ar or Xe, halides of Na and at least one of the elements of Dy, Tm and Ho plus at least one member selected from the group consisting of MgI₂ and MgBr₂, in a molar quantity between about 5 and 50% of the total molar quantity of the total halides in said vessel including MgI₂ and/or MgBr₂; and

35 discharge electrodes positioned at opposite ends within the discharge vessel; and

40 an envelope surrounding the discharge vessel, the outer jacket is filled with nitrogen.

45 8. The lamp according to claim 1 wherein said nitrogen is at a pressure between about 350 and 600 mmHg.